

Message Text

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NO. 24 FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT HENRY TREWHITT BYLINER BALTIMORE SUN FRIDAY APRIL 1 HEADED "AFTER CONFRONTATION OVER SALT, U.S., SOVIET PREPARE FOR GENEVA."
2. THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES COMMITTED THEMSELVES YESTERDAY TO ANOTHER ROUND OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH AFTER THEIR LATEST CONFRONTATION TURNED OUT TO BE MAINLY A TEST OF POLITICAL WILLS.
3. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED AS CYRUS R. VANCE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, LEFT MOSCOW, SAID ALSO THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL TRY TO REACH A MEETING OF MINDS ABOUT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IN GENEVA. THE VAGUELY WORDED UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENT CONVEYED NONE OF THE HEAT OF MR. VANCE'S FOUR DAYS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WAS SOVIET REJECTION OF TWO ALTERNATIVE AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY (SALT). AMERICAN SOURCES ACKNOWLEDGED PRIVATELY THAT THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED SOVIET

ACCEPTANCE OF THE U.S. IDEAS, WHICH THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER LABELED "ONE-SIDED."

5. WITHOUT APPROVING THAT DESCRIPTION BY ANDREI A. GROMYKO, THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER, AMERICAN ANALYSTS AGREED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S OPENING POSITION WAS CALCULATED, AS ONE PUT IT, "TO OFFSET CERTAIN SOVIET ADVANTAGES." MOREOVER, THE U.S. APPROACH SERVED NOTICE, THE SOURCE SAID, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS PREPARED TO BE FIRM ON CRITICAL ISSUES.

6. DETAILS OF THE SOVIET NEGOTIATING POSITION WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC. BUT INFORMED OFFICIALS, SAID IT OBVIOUSLY WAS CRAFTED TO SOVIET ADVANTAGE. IN GENEVA, ONE ADDED, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO SHOW THE FIRST SIGNS OF COMPROMISE.

7. BUT JODY POWELL, THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY, SAID THAT "THERE ARE NO PLANS" TO REVISE THE U.S. PROPOSAL. MR. GROMYKO, TOO, SAID THE "CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES ... ARE NOT GOING TO DECREASE." NORMALLY NEGOTIATORS DO NOT REVEAL THEIR FALLBACK POSITIONS IN ADVANCE.

8. ESSENTIALLY THE U.S. POSITION RESTED ON TWO GENERAL PROPOSITIONS. ONE WOULD SIMPLY HAVE RATIFIED THE CEILINGS ON NUCLEAR VEHICLES ACCEPTED BY FORMER PRESIDENT FORD AND LEONID I. BREZHNEV, THE SOVIET LEADER, AT VLADIVOSTOK IN 1974. THE OTHER WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE TOTALS SUBSTANTIAL-
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LY, INCLUDING CONSTRAINTS ON SOVIET LONG-RANGE MISSILES, AND WOULD HAVE RESTRICTED U.S. DEPLOYMENT OF SO-CALLED CRUISE MISSILES, A PRIORITY SOVIET OBJECTIVE.

9. THE U.S. APPROACH RECEIVED THE ENDORSEMENT YESTERDAY OF PAUL H. NITZE, THE FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WHO HELPED NEGOTIATE THE FIRST SALT ACCORD. THAT TREATY EXPIRES IN OCTOBER. MR. NITZE, REGARDED GENERALLY AS A CONSERVATIVE STRATEGIC PLANNER WHO ADVOCATES STRONG DEFENSES, SAID HE WAS "VERY MUCH IMPRESSED" WITH THE VANCE APPROACH. IT WOULD HAVE MAINTAINED THE ROUGH EQUIVALENCE OF STRATEGIC FORCES, HE SAID.

10. MR. VANCE MEANWHILE WAS MAKING HIS WAY HOME SLOWLY. HE WAS REPORTING TO AMERICAN ALLIES IN LONDON, BONN AND PARIS ON THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW.

11. IN LONDON HE SAID HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED" AT SOVIET

REJECTION OF WHAT HE CALLED A "FAIR, EQUITABLE" APPROACH.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, "REACHING AGREEMENT ON ARMS CONTROL IS SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT." MR. POWELL TOOK THE SAME RELAXED VIEW IN WASHINGTON. "THE PRESIDENT SAID IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE PATIENT AND METHODICAL," HE OBSERVED. "HE INTENDS TO BE JUST THAT. WE HAVE NO PRESSURE TO REACH AGREEMENT IN A PARTICULAR MEETING."

12. THE ADMINISTRATION APPEARED TO BE REINFORCING ITS POSITION THAT IT WILL PROCEED, THOUGH RELUCTANTLY, TO DEVELOP FURTHER ADVANCED WEAPONS IF THE RUSSIANS WILL NOT ACCEPT AN EQUITABLE CONTROL PACKAGE.

13. DESPITE DISAGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SET UP SEVERAL JOINT COMMISSIONS ON OTHER STRATEGIC ISSUES AND AGREED
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TO BEGIN LONG-DELAYED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COUNTERPART EMBASSIES IN THE TWO CAPITALS.

14. BUT APART FROM THE ARMS LIMITATION REFERENCE, THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IN THE ONE-PAGE COMMUNIQUE MAY HAVE BEEN ITS LANGUAGE REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST. THE GENEVA MEETING IN THE "FIRST HALF OF MAY," IT SAID, WILL COVER PROSPECTS FOR RECONVENING THE SUSPENDED CONFERENCE ABOUT THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN THE SWISS CITY.

15. MR. GROMYKO AND MR. VANCE AGREED, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID, THAT "CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R. AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS ESSENTIAL IN BRINGING ABOUT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA."

16. MR. CARTER HAD MADE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY. THE CONFERENCE, WHICH INCLUDES THE PRINCIPALS IN THE MIDEAST PLUS THE SUPERPOWERS, MET BRIEFLY ONLY ONCE, JUST AFTER THE 1973 MIDEAST WAR. (END TEXT.)
CHRISTOPHER

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